

**UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND  
ANTI-PERSONNEL MINE BAN CONVENTION – INTERSESSIONAL MEETING**

**20-22 JUNE 2022**

STATEMENT ON INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND ASSISTANCE

Tuesday/Wednesday June 2022

Agenda item 7: Matters related to the mandate of the Committee on the

Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance: 1700-1800; 10:00-11:00

Thank you Mr President,

The United Kingdom is committed to the Convention’s humanitarian goals and the effective implementation of the Oslo Action Plan. The UK continues to support the clearance and destruction of anti-personnel landmines, the delivery of risk education, and to build capacity to enable national and provincial authorities to take ownership of clearance activities.

The Global Mine Action Programme (GMAP) remains the main vehicle for this work. GMAP’s second iteration, GMAP2, invested £146million in 14 countries in Africa, the Middle East and Asia over four years from 2018 to March 2022. This highly successful programme has cleared and confirmed safe over 480 million square metres of land and has delivered risk education messages to over 4 million people in communities affected by mines. We are now wrapping up GMAP2, and learning lessons from it.

The United Kingdom has allocated a budget of up to £100million to the third iteration of GMAP - GMAP3 - for the three years to end March 2025. This underlines our continued ambition and commitment to playing a leading role in tackling the indiscriminate and lethal legacy of landmines. GMAP3 commenced in April 2022, and is currently active in eight countries, including in Ukraine. Since Russia’s illegal invasion, which the UK condemns in the strongest terms, we have seen the threat of explosive remnants of war increase significantly. That is why we signed a £2million agreement with the HALO Trust in May 2022 to survey and then clear devices from areas in Ukraine where Russian troops have recently withdrawn.

*Check against delivery*

We are now planning to extend our country coverage, and to increase our ambition in Ukraine over time. We intend to host a fresh early market engagement event on 28 July 2022, to set out our plans for multi-year contracts to run from early 2023 and to seek feedback from the sector. Wherever possible, we will be reaching out to national mine action authorities of the countries in scope of GMAP3 to confirm need and ensure we align with their national plans and priorities.

In accordance with Action 42 of the Oslo Action Plan, the UK continues to invest in exploring alternative sources of funding. In March 2022, we hosted a hybrid event at Wilton Park. We brought together representatives from the mine action community and innovative finance and development experts to discuss funding challenges faced by the mine action sector, and explored the potential of innovative financing mechanisms to address these challenges. A detailed report of the conference is available to view on the Wilton park website or from the UK Mission Yesterday/earlier, we hosted a side event where we covered the Wilton Park outcomes in more detail and explored next steps for this work, including the potential for feasibility studies and pilot projects.

Through GMAP3, we will continue to fund research into innovative finance and to strengthen the evidence base for mine action. Our programme will push for an outcomes-based approach that aligns mine action with broader humanitarian and development goals, and for an inclusive approach that considers how interventions will impact on gender equality, disability inclusion and those with protected characteristics and works to ensure that no one is left behind.

In closing, the United Kingdom reiterates its steadfast support to the Convention, and commitment to work with all States Parties to tackle the scourge of landmines.